

# Mining Man: The Sources for Oliver Lee Neer (1858-1935)

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Giovanni R. Ruffini, ed.

*Mining Man: The Sources for Oliver Lee Neer*  
Giovanni Ruffini, ed.

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Also in the same series:  
*The Lee Neer Diaries*  
Charlotte Ruffini, ed. (2018)



Oliver Neer



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# Foreward

This volume accompanies *The Lee Neer Diaries*, edited by Charlotte A. Ruffini. Specifically, it publishes all available primary sources relevant to the life of Lee Neer's father, Oliver Lee Neer (1858-1935). The results are a sharp contrast to *The Lee Neer Diaries*, which were a personal product, not meant for public consumption. The sources for Oliver Lee Neer are, by and large, newspaper articles about Oliver's work in the mining industry. Reading these articles in the aggregate gives the impression that they are, generally speaking, the product of Oliver's own efforts at self-promotion. Put another way, they are, unlike his son's diaries, specifically meant for public consumption. They are an excellent source for the evolution of his career in mining from the 1890s to the 1920s. Through them, we are able to trace his transition from an employee of a major mining corporation to an entrepreneur in his own right. Through them, we are also able to trace the evolving messages he wanted to project to potential investors and the general public, of his confidence and the promise of his future plans.

Oliver Lee Neer has many living descendants, all through his third son, Lee Neer. Charlotte Ruffini and Lee Kirkland are Oliver's great-granddaughters through Lee Neer's first wife. Peggy Reins was Oliver's granddaughter through Lee

Neer's second wife. This collection is dedicated to their descendants.



# A Note on Sources

Newspaper articles have been taken from the Library of Congress *Chronicling America* website, [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov). Unless otherwise indicated, these articles were located by a general search of all digitized U.S. newspapers for the search term “o l neer”. Since this collection only goes as far as 1925, it necessarily does not produce results for the last ten years of Oliver’s life.

Census records and city directory entries have been accessed via [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

## Oral Sources

Oliver’s granddaughter Leona Jane Neer, who lived with him during her youth, used to tell her daughter Charlotte Ann Quinlan that Oliver would alternatively use the surnames "von Neer" or "van Neer" depending on the context; that he used to wear full-length silk shirts; and was a skilled marksman, shooting bottles he had thrown in the air. Charlotte recalls Oliver’s son Lee Neer saying that Oliver always looked well dressed, even when he was working hard.



# **The Nineteenth Century**

## **U.S. Federal Census, 1860**

*Oliver Lee Neer first appears in the 1860 census of Williams County, Ohio, at the age of one, listed in the family of Eden Neer and his wife Phoebe, who was born in Pennsylvania.*

## **U.S. Federal Census, 1870**

*Oliver Lee Neer appears in the 1870 census as an 11-year-old “at home” in Williams County, Ohio, Center Township, listed in the family of Eaton (sic) Neer and Phebe; this entry on ancestry.com is misread and therefore misindexed under the surname Nees.*

## **Marriage Certificate, 1878**

*A marriage certificate, the original of which is in our possession, records Oliver L. Neer’s marriage to Ida J. Johnson in Ohio on March 16.*

## **U.S. Federal Census, 1880**

*He appears as "Oliver L. Near" in the 1880 census, where he appears as a "school teacher" with Ida and their first son Paul in Laramie, Wyoming.<sup>1</sup>*

## **1882**

*Oliver's second son Claude is born this year.*

## **1885**

*Oliver's third son Lee is born in Garrison, Montana. Garrison was probably "named for William Lloyd Garrison, father-in-law of Henry Villard who pushed the Northern Pacific Railroad to completion." It sits at "the junction of the Northern Pacific and the Utah and Northern Railroads and of highways branching to Missoula, Helena, Butte."''<sup>2</sup>*

## ***The new North-west (Deer Lodge, Montana), December 11, 1885***

*A three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Neer, at Garrison, has diphtheria, but is doing well.<sup>3</sup>*

## **Los Angeles City Directory, 1888**

*An Oliver N. Neer (sic) appears as a conductor living on Bernard Street.*

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Neer's 1919 passport application gives his birth date as October 15, 1879 and his birthplace as near Cheyenne, Wyoming.

<sup>2</sup> Gerds 1990, *non vidi*.

<sup>3</sup> Claude Neer, b. October 5, 1882.

***Los Angeles daily herald, January 23,  
1888, Page 6***

*O. L. Neer appears in the unclaimed mail section.*

***Los Angeles daily herald, August 05,  
1889, Page 7***

*O. L. Neer appears in the unclaimed mail section.*

***Los Angeles City Directory, 1891***

*An Oliver L. Neer appears as a conductor for the "S. P. Co." living at 508 Bernard.*

***Corran's Los Angeles City Directory,  
1893***

*Oliver L. Neer appears in Corran's Los Angeles city directory living at 152 North Water listed as a conductor for the S. P. Co. An "E. E. Neer" lives with him, a brakeman for the S. P. Co. Could this have been his brother Emery?*

***The Herald (Los Angeles, CA), 1893***

*Various hotel arrivals are reported in May, June and July for O. L. and Paul, 1893. In one (June 15), O. L. Neer is listed as of the Southern Pacific Railroad company. An article on December 1 reports him winning an accordeon [sic] in a rifle contest.*

***Maxwell's Los Angeles City Directory,  
1895***

*Oliver L. Neer appears in Maxwell's Los Angeles City Directory and Gazetteer of Southern California living at 993 Buena Vista.*

## ***Maxwell's Los Angeles City Directory, 1896***

*Oliver L. Neer appears as a miner living at 993 Buena Vista with Claud ("cash boy") and Paul ("clk").*

## ***Arizona Sentinel, January 18, 1896***

Sheriff Mel. Greenleaf returned Wednesday afternoon with O. L. Neer, a mining man of Los Angeles from a visit to Norton's Landing<sup>4</sup> and the mines in that vicinity.

## ***Arizona, Voter Registrations, Pima, 1882-1901***

*Oliver L. Neer appears as entry number 1430, aged 40 years old and born in the U.S., local residence in Precinct 18.*

## ***Arizona Republican, July 29, 1898***

*In the "Arizona Day by Day" section:*

O. L. Neer and wife of Pillaries Sonora, accompanied by [his son] Claud Neer are spending a few days in Bisbee.

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<sup>4</sup> Now a ghost town in La Paz County, Arizona, named after George W. Norton, owner of the Red Cloud Mine.

# The 1900s

## ***The oasis, November 24, 1900***

*The Oasis (Arizola, Arizona) under the “Nogales Notes” section:*

Mr. O. L. Neer is over from Washington Camp.<sup>5</sup>

## ***The oasis, December 07, 1901***

*The Oasis (Arizola, Arizona) under the “Nogales Notes” section:*

Monday Mr. O. L. Neer was over from La Cananea, to close the deal whereby he sold to Mr. H. B. Clifford the Dos Naciones copper property, adjoining the Cobre Grande.<sup>6</sup>

## ***Bisbee daily review, January 17, 1902***

*In the “Local and Personal” Section:*

Mrs. O. L. Neer, of Cananea, is in the city shopping. She has lived there for three years past, and her family was one of the first to locate there. Her husband and two sons are employed by the company<sup>7</sup> and have done exceptionally

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<sup>5</sup> An historic mining camp, now a ghost town, in Santa Cruz County, Arizona.

<sup>6</sup> The Cobre Grande Copper Company was incorporated in Arizona by Greene et al. in 1899. A mine of the same name is known in the Cananea area of Sonora. Mines named Dos Naciones are known in both Arizona and Sonora.

<sup>7</sup> The antecedent is unclear. An earlier item in the same section mentions the Copper Queen.

well. Mrs. Neer states that it would very hard to realize the remarkable growth that has been the history of that camp during the short time of its present operation. There are some good, substantial dwellings going up at present on the new townsite.

### ***Bisbee daily review, August 12, 1902***

*This paragraph is an excerpt from a larger article in which an Ed Kuermer reports on mining activity around Nacozari. In his own words:*

The Transvaal Copper Mining company, about sixteen miles southwest of Campus is owned by Cincinnati capital. J. R. Charlestown, of West Virginia, the president of the company, is one of the coal trust magnates of that state. O. L. Neer the superintendent of the company, is well known in this vicinity. This mine is being developed as rapidly as possible. A hoist and other machinery is already placed upon the ground. The mine is considered a big copper property carrying both gold and silver.

### ***Bisbee daily review, September 12, 1902***

O. L. Neer, of the Transvaal mine, in Sonora, was a guest at the Copper Queen hotel yesterday and left for his property via Naco where he will be detained on business for the next ten days.



***Tombstone epitaph, September 14,  
1902, Sunday Edition***

O. L. Neer, of the Transvaal mine in Sonora, after spending a day here, left on a business trip to the mine and expects to stay at least ten days.

***Bisbee daily review, November 11,  
1902***

A "Hotel Arrivals" section for the Copper Queen lists Mrs. O. L. Neer, Campas, Sonora.

***Bisbee daily review, November 16,  
1902***

Mrs O L Neer of Campas [sic] state of Sonora Mexico was an arrival in Bisbee on last night's train.

***Bisbee daily review, November 22,  
1902***

*In the "Undelivered Telegrams" section:*

Undelivered telegrams are at the Postal Telegraph office in the Copper Queen hotel for the following persons...  
[including] O. L. Neer...

***Bisbee daily review, November 26,  
1902***

*Hotel Arrivals*

Copper Queen -- O. L. Neer.

***Bisbee daily review, January 27, 1903***

*In the "Copper Queen Arrivals" section:*

O. L. Neer, Sonora

***Bisbee daily review, April 14, 1903,  
Page Seven***

*In the "News from the Smelter City" section:*

O. L. Neer is up from La Verde.

***Bisbee daily review, April 15, 1903,  
Page Five***

*In the "Copper Queen Arrivals" section:*

O. L. Neer, La Verde, Sonora

***Bisbee daily review, April 18, 1903,  
Page 5***

*In the "Copper Queen Arrivals" section:*

O. L. Neer, La Verde, Mexico

***The border vidette (Nogales, AZ),  
April 25, 1903***

O. L. Neer, of the Transvaal Copper Mining company, left this morning for the mine which is near Cumpas, in Sonora. Mr. Neer is very enthusiastic over the property and says that the showing made up to date far exceeds expectations. Not a share of the stock has been sold for less than \$100 a share, and some private sales were made in which the stock changed hands to the tune of \$150 a share. For some years

Mr. Neer was connected with the La Cananea company, having charge of the famous old Cobre Grande mine. Bisbee Miner.

***Bisbee daily review, May 22, 1903***

*Nearly Taken Ill*

O. L. Neer, well known for his connection with some promising Sonora mining property, was able to be around yesterday as usual. Mr. Neer came up from Cananea, fearing that he was about to be taken with an attack of pneumonia. He stated yesterday that there is no longer any danger of his being sick in the near future.

***Bisbee daily review, May 22, 1903***

*In the "Copper Queen Arrivals" section:*

O. L. Neer

***Bisbee daily review, May 30, 1903,***

***Page Seven***

*In the "Personals" section:*

O. L. Neer and wife passed through Douglas last night returning from El Paso. Mr. Neer is the principal owner in the Transvaal mine below Nacozari.

***Bisbee daily review, June 23, 1903***

*In the "Little Douglas Locals" section:*

O. L. Neer of the Tranvaal [sic] Mining company is in Douglas on business. Mr. Neer was questioned by The Review reporter about the Transvaal property, near

Nacozari. Mr. Neer did not care to say much, but he did say that the property was an exceptionally good one, and was without doubt the largest copper deposit, with but one exception, in Sonora. Work is being pushed at the mine, and large bodies of high grade ore opened up. Stock is selling at \$150 a share, and never sold below par.

### ***Bisbee daily review, June 24, 1903***

*In the "Smaller News Notes" section:*

O. L. Neer, superintendent of the Transvaal mines at Cumpas, Sonora, is in the city.

*In the "Copper Queen Arrivals" section:*

O. L. Neer, Mexico.

### ***Bisbee daily review, June 26, 1903***

*In the "Little Douglas Locals" section:*

O. L. Neer returned yesterday to the Transvaal mine, where he holds the position of superintendent.

### ***Bisbee daily review, July 14, 1903***

Mrs. O. L. Neer, Mrs. Carter and Leo Neer left this morning for Cumpas, on their way to the Transvaal mine. Lee Neer has been at school in Ohio for a year, and is returning to his parents, who now make their home at the mine. The Transvaal, under the management of O. L. Neer, is rapidly becoming one of the big producers of Sonora.

## ***The border vidette (Nogales, AZ), July 18, 1903***

*Under the "Local Items" heading:*

Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Neer are registered at the Montezuma.

## ***Bisbee daily review, July 26, 1903***

Sonora Mining Man.

O. L. Neer, superintendent of the Transvaal mine, in Sonora, is in the city. Mr. Neer is one of the successful mining men of the Mexican state which borders on Arizona, and to his able management is due the showing made on the Transvaal. Mr. Neer's property is situated near Cumpas, on the line of the Nacozari railroad, and is considered by some to be one of the big propositions of that section.

## ***Bisbee daily review, July 29, 1903***

O. L. Neer, manager of the Transvaal Mining company's property in Sonora, returned to his camp in Mexico yesterday. Before leaving for the other side of the line Mr. Neer stated that his company had lately acquired about forty square miles of land in addition to what they have owned for some time, and that now the holdings of the company will aggregate fully fifty square miles. Most of this is ranch land, but there is a generous sprinkling of mineral in paying bodies on certain parts of the property, to make it a profitable mining venture.

*On the same page.*

O. L. Neer, manager for the Transvaal Copper Mining company in Sonora, took his departure for the sunny lands that border on the Rio Yaqui yesterday.

## ***Bisbee daily review, September 05, 1903***

FROM SONORA

A prospector, well known in Bisbee, has just returned from a trip through the Sierra de La Madera section of Moctezuma district, Sonora and reports quite an excitement in that section, occasioned by the recent rich strikes of gold ore on the property of the World's Fair Mine, a wide ledge, showing values of forty and fifty dollars to the ton and higher. Two drifts on the property have penetrated sixty and Seventy feet and a shaft has been sunk forty feet. A large number of men are being employed and the prospects of fine results are thought to be very good.

Adjoining the property is the Golden Egg group and has been taken under bond by Mr. O. L. Neer the superintendent of the Transvaal mine and assays from the rock here show very rich in gold still another group in this vicinity is being operated on by Slaughter and Fagin. The returned prospector also has half interest in a group of claims on this vicinity which is twenty miles to the east of Cumpas. The recent washouts have broken up the roads very badly and a trip to the district is attended with very much discomfort. The country is very fine in that section and there are many "Gringos" coming in.

The Transvaal mne [sic] which is west from Cumpas is reported to be attaining some very good results and is employing a large force of men.

## ***Bisbee daily review, December 02, 1903***

O. L. Neer, superintendent of a large mining company at La Verde, Sonora, is in the city and will remain for a few days.<sup>8</sup> He reports everything moving along nicely at the mine.

## **Prospectus of the Transvaal Copper Company (Addenda)**

*From a copy housed in the Beinecke Library, Yale University. In addition to the following addenda, written by Oliver Neer himself, the prospectus includes a complete list of company officers and directors as well as further material by Leo G. Cloud summarizing the Transvaal mines in Sonora. Particularly relevant is his assessment (pages 9-10) of the potential of the San Nicolas mine and projections (pages 11-12) of future expenses and returns.*

LA VERDE CAMP, STATE OF SONORA, MEXICO, December 15, 1903.

To the Directors and Stockholders of the Transvaal Copper Company:

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<sup>8</sup> La Verde is one of the holdings reported in the *Prospectus of the Transvaal Copper Company* in the same period, December 1903.

*Dear Sirs* — Herewith I give you a brief report on the gold properties recently acquired by your Company.

## LOCATION

The properties are located in the Sierra Madera mountain range, about twenty miles east of Cumpas, district of Moctezuma, Sonora, Mexico.

## EXTENT

The Golden Goose and the Golden Egg, together, comprise  
21 pertenencias.

The Virginia consists of 23 pertenencias.

The Little Virginia consists of 6 pertenencias.

The Alfred Vogeler consists of 40 pertenencias.

## VEINS EXPOSED, AND DEVELOPMENT TO DATE

The Golden Goose covers the summit of the mountain, on which is located the main vein, which crops for a distance, within the boundaries, of about 3,500 feet, and on surface showing an average width of 8 to 16 feet. Assays from surface in four places, gave an average value of about \$22 .00 per ton gold.

The Golden Goose, on east side of the Golden Egg, shows not less than 5 veins, varying from 17 inches to 8 feet wide. Assays from these, range from 14 ounce gold to 6 ounces gold per ton, in one instance over 4 ounces gold, and 86 ounces silver, per ton.



The Virginia and Tittle Virginia were located to protect and cover these ledges, which pass beyond the boundaries of the Golden Goose.

The Alfred Vogeler consists of 40 pertenencias, has a very strong vein running the entire length of claim, and varying in width from 2 to 5 feet. From horning and panning, this ore will undoubtedly show from \$60.00 to \$100.00 gold per ton.

At point shown on map, the Junction shaft has reached a depth of 60 feet, with apparently 16 to 20 feet of \$14.00 ore. At north end, a cross-cut tunnel is being driven to cut main vein, at a depth of 150 feet, when vein will then be followed and depth of about 350 feet be reached in drifting to Junction shaft, which, as can be readily seen, will open an immense ore reserve, the distance being from tunnel to shaft, about 600 feet. This tunnel has probably 50 feet more to run, before cutting vein.

On the Virginia a tunnel has been driven on a stringer toward main vein a distance of 160 feet, showing good values, and varying in width one to two feet.

The Alfred Vogeler has tunnel 40 feet, showing 20 inches to 24 inches of fine ore, assaying \$43.00 gold per ton.

On the Virginia, Little Virginia, and Alfred Vogeler, are found immense croppings of high-grade ore, boulders weighing a ton each, which assay 1/2 ounce gold to as high as 7 ounces in picked ore. There are hundreds of tons of ore in sight on surface, which would yield handsome profits if facilities were at hand for treatment of same.

The mountain on east is most precipitous, and a depth of about 600 feet can be reached on main vein by following in on one of the stringers. The property is most favorably located for development, as it can be prospected by tunnel entirely, and will need no expensive hoisting or pumping machinery.

## CHARACTER OF ORE

The vein matter is quartz, carrying much iron in oxides and sulphurets, and in places some copper pyrites is found. What will most likely be needed, I am led to believe by present indications, will be stamp and concentrating tables, the concentrates to be either roasted and cyanided or smelted.

## TIMBER

The entire mountain is covered with a fine growth of pine and oak, insuring mine timbers and building timbers of all sizes. An abundance of oak for fuel grows down almost to level of valley.

## WATER

Several springs are found near the property, and to northwest of same at distant of about one mile, is permanent water flowing in dry season-about six miner's inches of water.

## WAGON-ROAD AND MILL-SITE

These are points to be determined by an engineer. It has been impossible for me to examine the country thoroughly,

on account of more pressing business but I think the approximate cost of the wagon-road from Cumpas to mine, will be \$10,000.00 to \$15,000 gold.

Respectfully submitted,

*O. L. Neer*, Superintendent,

Transvaal Copper Company.

***Bisbee daily review, February 06,  
1904, Page Eight***

TRANSVAAL GREAT MINE.

O. L. Neer Returned and Tells Plan for Future.

O. L. Neer, of the Transvaal, has just returned from the East, where he has been on business connected with the company. For some time Mr. Neer was seriously ill in New York City, caused by the intense cold. While in Cincinnati he sold over \$23,000 worth of treasury stock to one man.

The great mines of the Transvaal are well known in the financial centers of the East, and there is a good demand for the stock at a price far above par.

Mr. Neer said that work would be rushed at the mine, a big plant of machinery put in and a narrow guage [sic] road built from the mine to Cumpas, which will soon be a station on the Nacozari road.

***Bisbee daily review, February 11,  
1904, Page 3***

*In the "Personal Mention" section:*

O. L. Neer has gone to the Transvaal mine in Sonora again.

## ***Bisbee daily review, February 28, 1904, Page 5***

Cincinnati Capitalists.

A party of Cincinnati capitalists arrived in Douglas Saturday for the purpose of visiting the Transvaal Copper company's property. They were accompanied thereto by O. L. Neer.

## ***Mines Register (1904)***

*This year's edition lists O. L. Neer as the superintendent of Transvaal Copper Company.*

## ***Bisbee daily review, March 13, 1904***

*An excerpt from a larger article titled "Transvaal Mine and Its History."*

The history of a mine is always interesting, and the history of the Transvaal is very interesting. In 1899 Mr. Ohlender made the discovery of the copper formation in the Verde canyon. He was led into that particular region by his brother-in-law, a Mexican, who had traveled through the pass and had noticed the green stain on the cliff before mentioned. When Ohlender had traveled up the pass for several miles he found himself in the heart of a wonderful copper formation. He did a little work on a very promising outcropping and was rewarded by opening a big ore body which carried carbonate, sulphide and a goodly proportion of native copper. He realized that he had struck a big thing, how big he did not realize at the time. Having no money to carry on development work, he hunted for some one who did. In La Cananea, which was then a camp of about 250

people, he met O. L. Neer, who was the foreman of the old Cobre Grande mine. He interested Mr. Neer in the proposition, and showed him samples of the rock. Ohlender [sic] held the property at \$100,000 gold, and persuaded Mr. Neer to go into the Piedra Verde and look at the mine on that figure. Mr. Neer went and after carefully investigating the showing made by the development work and the surrounding country succeeding in getting an option for \$60,000, which was to hold good for several months. The matter was dropped for some time, and then Mr. Neer succeeded in getting several well known Ohio capitalists interested in the proposition. In the meantime L. G. Cloud, a well known mining engineer who was at the time in La Democrata, became interested in the property. He and Mr. Neer went over the Transvaal and took up the ground and bonded the original Ohlender [sic] territory, and took up much more of the surrounding country.

## ***Bisbee daily review, April 29, 1904,*** **Page Four**

### **MILL FOR TRANSVAAL MINE.**

O. L. Neer, superintendent of the Transvaal Copper company, came up from the mines yesterday, to meet the gentleman [sic] who is to superintend the construction of the new mill of the company. This mill will be built as soon as possible. The machinery has been ordered for a 100-ton mill, and as soon as the machinery is received at the mines work of construction will begin at once. The mill will be a silver-lead mill. A copper plant will not be built until a railroad is completed to the mines. Mr. Neer stated that the

work at the mines was going along smoothly, and that new ore bodies were being constantly opened up.

## ***Bisbee daily review, May 01, 1904,*** **Page Three**

Transvaal Is to Have a Smelter.

EMINENT METALLURGIST ARRIVES EN-ROUTE TO  
THE MINE

Dr. Sanburg of Cananea Goes to Make Tests and  
Determine Character of Machinery Required -- Will Be a  
Silver Smelter and Located in the Town of Cumpas.

Douglas, April 30.

Dr. A. Sandburg, the well known metallurgist, arrived in this city yesterday from Cananea and left today with Superintendent O. L. Neer for the Transvaal mining property. Dr. Sandburg goes to the Transvaal to make a thorough test of the character of the ores taken from the various mines and to determine the exact character of the treatment required to save the values.

The character of the plant will be a silver-lead smelter and it will be located at Cumpas. Work on the erection of this plant will be commenced as soon as it is decided just what is needed and the machinery is on the ground. Mr. Neer has been advised by the general office in Cincinnati that the money is ready to pay for the plant and he is instructed to put it in operation at the earliest possible time.

The Transvaal property includes a large number of claims and covers many miles in area. Also the Transvaal company owns a vast tract grazing and farming land which is to be stocked and cultivated in the future.

About three hundred men are now employed in the

development of the various claims and a vast amount of ore has been taken out which awaits the coming of the smelter to be reduced into the pure metal.

***Bisbee daily review, May 13, 1904,***  
**Page Six**

LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

O. L. Neer, manager of the Transvaal Copper Co., is up from the mines and reports that a big body of copper ore has been uncovered at the 400 foot level in the Cobre Rico. He says the work of development is being constantly pushed, and that no expense will be spared to put the Transvaal on the list of producing properties as soon as possible.

***Bisbee daily review, August 04, 1904***  
*In the "Brief City News" section:*

Sonora Mining Man

O. L. Neer, of the Transvaal mine, of the Moctezuma district, of Sonora, was in Bisbee yesterday on business.

***Bisbee daily review, December 17,***  
**1904, Page 3**

Mr. Neidhart, who is in Douglas from Sonora, last week sold a gold property to O. L. Neer for \$5,000. The property is near the Transvaal mines.

**1904**

*The Transvaal Copper Company Statements, Letters, Engineer Reports includes letters addressed to Christian*

*and Beauchamp from Hauck, Potter and Kleve, all of Cincinnati; reports by Cloud and Beauchamp; a report by Conner to Moore, Hauck, et al.; a report by Stone as a representative of a Cincinnati syndicate to Oakley et al.; and a report by Ankrum to a conditional syndicate in Pittsburg. The Conner report includes considerable information on the San Nicolas mine and future transportation plans.*

### ***Mining World 22 (1905): 704***

Definite information in regard to the sale of the York group of mines in the Pillares de Terras district was received here last week. The properties in this group consist of the Adios, Esmeralda, York, Central, Alabastrina, Patricia and Melbourne, all of which have had development work done on them for the past several years by Mr. York and associates, considerable of the ore taken out being rich enough to ship at a profit. The recent discovery of rich silverite ore running up in the thousands of dollars in gold and silver on this and other properties on this belt has made a big stir in this vicinity, and many prospects and partly developed properties have changed hands here in the past few weeks at high figures. The property was bonded for \$200,000 gold, 10 per cent. payment down, by O. L. Neer, who until recently was superintendent for the Transvaal Copper company, Cincinnati capitalists, who are interested in the above company, and who are behind Mr. Neer in this last purchase, he having been in charge of their properties in Sonora for the past three years... [Further description of the properties is left out.] Messrs. York and Neer are both at present in Douglas on matters of business, arranging



plans for future work, and both will return in a few days to the property.

***Bisbee daily review, February 04,  
1905, Page Three***

*In the "News Notes of Douglas" section:*

O. L. Neer, of the Transvaal, left this morning for the mine.

***Bisbee daily review, April 07, 1905,  
Page Five***

Transvaal Reduction Works

Large Amunts [sic] of Machinery Arriving for Splendid  
Plant to Be Erected at Cumpas

Yesterday Jesse Shanklin, who has been for many years living in the various mining camps of Southern Arizona, as machinist, boarding housekeeper, etc., was in Douglas and called at the International-American office. Mr. Shanklin, had been working at the Transvaal and was en route to Cananea, where he has accepted a position with the Greene company.

Speaking of the Transvaal Mr. Shanklin stated that he considered that one of the coming great camps of the southwest. Machinery is now beginning to arrive at Cumpas for an up-to-date smelter plant. This machinery is modern in character and comes from the Alice Chalmers people. On the dumps at the mines are large quantities of smelting ore taken from the various development shafts and tunnels. When the new smelter is ready to run it is expected that the output of the camp will be steady and continual.

O. L. Neer, the superintendent, returned yesterday to the mines from Nogales, where he had been on business.

***Bisbee daily review, April 25, 1905,***  
**Page 5**

*In the "Douglas Local News" section:*

O. L. Neer, superintendent of the Transvaal mine, is in the city on business.

***Bisbee daily review, April 29, 1905,***  
**Page Four**

*In the "Douglas News Notes" section:*

Supt. O. L. Neer, of the Transvaal Mining company, was in town yesterday.

***Las Vegas daily optic (Las Vegas, NV),***  
**May 01, 1905**

O. L. Neer, of Campas, Mexico, where he is superintendent of the Transvaal copper mining company, was a passenger for Denver yesterday afternoon, thence going to Cincinnati, Ohio.

***Bisbee daily review, June 04, 1905,***  
**Page Two**

From the Transvaal

Col. O. L. Neer, manager with the Transvaal Mining Co, was in the city last evening en route to the mine from a business trip to Tucson. Col. Neer stated at the train that

things were looking good at the Transvaal and that the property was fast getting into splendid shape.

### ***Bisbee daily review, June 15, 1905***

TATE GOLD MINE SELLS FOR \$200,000 -- SONORA PROPERTY IN WHICH BISBEE AND DOUGLAS PEOPLE CONTROLLED -- Passes to O. L. Neer and Associates. Latter Said to Be Cincinnati People Who Backed Mr. Neer With the Transvaal.

Close of a deal was made yesterday whereby the York gold property, eighty miles south of Douglas, was sold to O. L. Neer and associates for \$200,000. Ten per cent of the amount was paid down. The York property is that in which Tom Tate and several others of this city have been interested in the last several months together with Douglas parties. Some time ago Mr. Tate went to the property to take personal charge of the development.

Mr. Neer arrived at Douglas yesterday, where the final close of the deal was made. He stated there that the property, from a thorough inspection of which he had just come, was the richest he had ever seen in Sonora. Its principal value is gold. Development will be largely by tunnel, several thousand feet of which will be immediately run.

Mr. Neer recently resigned from the position of superintendent with the Transvaal company in Sonora. He brought about the organization of this company, interesting Cincinnati capital and employing funds that were raised with much success, now having the property at the producing state, with large bodies of high grade ore in

reserve. It is understood that in the deal which closed yesterday his Cincinnati associates in the Transvaal enterprise are again with him.

## ***Bisbee daily review, July 30, 1905,*** **Page Two**

York Mine Proposition Successfully Financed

O. L. NEER FINANCED CO. FOR DEVELOPING GOLD PROPERTY.

Closed Deal on Strength of Bond for \$200,000 In Three Weeks With Cincinnati Parties -- Latter Coming Out Shortly.

Douglas, Ariz.. July 23. -(Special.)

O. L. Neer returned last evening from the east, where he went for the purpose of financing the properties familiarly known as the York claims which are located eight miles south of Colonia Morales and include in all about 435 acres.

Mr. Neer was eminently successful in his mission and succeeded in interesting several well known capitalists of Cincinnati and elsewhere.

These gentlemen will come to Douglas within the next ten days to complete arrangements for the transfer of the properties and Mr. Neer anticipates that extensive development and other work will be commenced within sixty days.

The acquisition of these valuable claims by parties who have plenty of capital to work them means consider able to Douglas, as they are situated in Territory to which this city is the natural gateway, and to which all of the mines in that

district must look to for their supplies, machinery [sic], etc. Although the proposition was a big one, Mr Neer having a bond and lease on the claims for \$200,000, it only took him three weeks to close the deal, yet that time seemed too long to him, and he said that but for the fact that most of the people whom he had to see were at the seashore and other summer resorts he would have closed the deal in much less time.

## ***Bisbee daily review, August 03, 1905,*** **Page Two**

OHIO MINING MEN INTERESTED IN SONORA  
PARTY WILL ARRIVE IN DOUGLAS EARLY NEXT  
WEEK.

O. L. Neer, of the Transvaal Co, Visitor In Bisbee  
Yesterday.

Transvaal Smelter About Ready to Blow In.

Mr. O. L. Neer, late superintendent of the Transvaal Mining Company, whose mines are situated near Cumpas, Sonora, was a visitor in Bisbee yesterday, leaving on last night's train for Douglas.

Mr. Neer has lately returned from the east where he has been engaged in forming a company to take over the York mines, situated about 10 miles north and east of the El Tigre property in the Moctezuma district of Sonora. He said yesterday that his mission had been accomplished and that sufficient money had been subscribed to make the initial payment on the property. \$20,000 or 15 percent of the \$200,000 [sic!], and that a party of the subscribers would arrive in Douglas the early part of the next week and pay a visit to the property.

The purchasers of the property are all Ohio people, mostly from Cincinnati and they will provide a large development fund to exploit the property. Mr. Neer stated their active operation will begin about the first of October.

In speaking of the Transvaal company Mr. Neer said, that the new 150 ton silver and lead smelter situated at Cumpas was about completed and expected to blow in about August 10. He also stated that while in Cincinnati he was informed that all arrangements for building the narrow gauge [*sic*] road from the smelter to the mines had been completed and a party of engineers would shortly be on the ground to do the preliminary work.

Mr. Neer, while not taking any active part in the management of the company's affairs is still virtually superintendent and will have a supervising control until the first of next year. He will await in Douglas the arrival of the people who have taken hold of the York claims and will take them to the mine during the next week.

Douglas, Ariz.. Aug. 2. (Special)

O. L. Neer, formerly superintendent of the Transvaal Mining company, but who is now promoting a company to take over the York property, in the vicinity of the El Tigre, went to Bisbee this morning, where he will remain for a few days until expected parties arrive from the east to accompany him to Sonora,

At the depot this morning Mr. Neer stated that he had been informed that the Transvaal Mining company would begin work very soon on the construction of the proposed railroad to connect the Transvaal mines with the smelter now nearing completion at Cumpas. This railroad will be about

fifteen miles and was planned by Mr. Neer while he was with the Transvaal company.

"The railroad to connect the mines and reduction works of the Transvaal company is not the only railway which Cumpas is likely to receive in the very near future," said Mr. Neer. "When I was east a few days ago I was informed that the Phelps-Dodge people, of New York, were planning for the extension of their Nacozari line farther south in the very near future. I did not get this information from any of the Phelps-Dodge people, but it came from men who are largely interested in the development of the mining country south of Nacozari."

The International-American has positive information that when Professor Douglas was last in Arizona, at the time of the announcement of the consolidation of the Southwestern and Northeastern lines, there was a meeting of all the Phelps-Dodge people in this section, when the matter of the early extension of the Nacozari line was carefully discussed. The result of this discussion was reflected by a remark of one of the men who took part in it that "big things were coming up soon for Sonora."

There has been no secret that it was the intention to build the Nacozari line further south: the only doubt on this proposition has been the time when the work would begin. It is expected that the Transvaal smelter will be completed and ready for operation before the first of September. This smelter will have a capacity of 150 tons daily and this will require a large amount of freight hauling to and from Cumpas from the present terminus of the Nacozari line. It is known that the business of the Nacozari road is rapidly increasing; the business has now increased to the point

where it will require an additional train service and it has already been announced that on September 1st a daily service will be inaugurated to Nacozari, whereas heretofore there has only been a train three times a week each way. South of Nacozari there are some eight or ten miles where heavy grading would be required to carry the railroad south beyond that point, but with this exception the route on to Cumpas and even beyond the Moctezuma would be an easy and inexpensive one.

***Bisbee daily review, August 03, 1905,***  
**Page Eight**

Copper Queen Arrivals... O. L. Neer, Douglas.

***Bisbee daily review, August 06, 1905,***  
**Mining Section**

*In the "Mining Notes" section:*

O. L. Neer, who is promoting the York properties near the El Tigre in Sonora, will leave Douglas Wednesday next with a party of Ohio capitalists to visit the property.

***Bisbee daily review, September 07,***  
**1905, Page Five**

A. M. & D. MILL ERECTION.

Machinery Man at Naco Yesterday to See About It --  
Cananea Visitors.

Among mining machinery men with headquarters in Douglas who were in the city last evening were Col. O. L. Neer, of the Transval [sic] and the York mines, J. L. Brown and W. R. Thurston, mining machinery men. The two



former came from Cananea, where they were with reference to mining matters. Both reported much activity in the vicinity of Cananea. Mr. Thurston had been at Naco with reference to installation of the stamp mill he sold some time ago to the A. M. & D. Co. The latter, he stated, is proceeding with development in highly satisfactory manner, and will be ready to make use of its machinery just as soon as the latter can be got in readiness.

***Bisbee daily review, September 14, 1905, Page Four***

Copper Queen Arrivals... O. L. Neer, Douglas

***Bisbee daily review, September 14, 1905, Page Eight***

Col. O. L. Neer is in the city from Douglas on mining business.

***Bisbee daily review, September 17, 1905, Page 8***

O. L. Neer, who is promoting the York properties near the Tigre mine, in Sonora, was a visitor in Bisbee yesterday.

***Bisbee daily review, September 26, 1905, Page Seven***

O. L. Neer has one of his eyes in a bandage today. It began to swell several days ago without apparent cause and is now considerably inflamed.

***Bisbee daily review, November 19,  
1905, Page Five***

Copper Queen Arrivals... O. L. Neer, Douglas

***Denver, Colorado City Directory, 1906***

*The Denver, Colorado city directory lists Claude, Lee and  
and Oliver's wife Ida Jane as living at 3037 California.  
Oliver does not appear with them.*

***The Delta of Sigma Nu fraternity,  
volume 23.***

On February 21, 1906, Paul Neer was introduced to  
Gamma Eta's goat – Paul lived through the ordeal all right,  
much to the discomfiture of the goat, and has since proven  
a strong man in chapter affairs, and also in scholastic lines.

***The oasis, March 24, 1906***

*The Oasis (Arizola, Arizona) under the "Nogales Notes"  
section:*

Mr. O. L. Neer, a mining operator with heavy interests in  
the Moctezuma district of Sonora, was a visitor at Nogales  
Monday.

***Bisbee daily review, April 15, 1906,  
Page Two***

*In the "Douglas Personals" section:*

O. L. Neer has returned to Douglas from a three weeks'  
business trip to Denver.

***Bisbee daily review, April 22, 1906,  
Page 7***

*In the "Douglas Locals" section:*

O. L. Neer, the Sonora mining man, left this afternoon for Los Angeles.

***Bisbee daily review, June 01, 1906,  
Page Six***

*In the "Real Estate Deeds" section:*

E. R. Pirtle Company to O. L. Neer, \$10; lots 22 and 23, block 113, Douglas.

***The oasis, June 23, 1906***

*The Oasis (Arizola, Arizona) under the "Nogales Notes" section:*

Mr. O. L. Neer, who is operating a good mining property out in the Yaqui river region, near Suaqui de Batuc, has returned from a visit in Los Angeles.

***Tombstone epitaph, June 02, 1907,  
Sunday Edition***

*In "The County Records" section, under "Realty Mortgage":*

O L Neer et ux to Madge Deems

## ***Bisbee daily review, July 28, 1907,*** **Sunday Edition, Mining Section**

### **TRANSCAAL.**

Although the Transvaal property near Nacozari has long been known as a property of worth, it will doubtless come as a surprise to the people of this section to learn that the production of ore last month raised it to the position of sixth metal producer in the Mexican republic. This was the statement of O. L. Neer, well known mining man and original promoter of the company, which has now been in operation for several years.

The company, which is a large one, has holdings computing about 2300 acres of mineral land. On it a 150 ton smelter is running at full capacity. In the near future a concentrator with a capacity of 1500 tons a day will put in to work the large low grade ore bodies now in sight. The ore production last month amounted to something like \$75,000 in value, the principal values being copper and silver. Some of the matte shipped has amounted in value to \$17,000 a carload and not much of it runs less than \$8000 a car in value.

The chief drawback in working the property heretofore has been the difficulty experienced in getting the ore to the smelter from the workings. This will shortly be overcome by the new railroad which is being put in by the Southern Pacific company.

Several miles of underground workings have been completed to this time. The deepest shaft is 600 feet. The stock of the company which is owned by a close corporation is principally held in Cincinnati, Mr. Neer being about the only stockholder in this section.

## ***Bisbee daily review, August 22, 1907,*** **Page Three**

O. L. Neer, Billy Loy, Jim Shea, W. L. York and other Nacozari mining men were in Douglas this week and most of them have returned to the land of beauty and treasure.

## ***Bisbee daily review, October 25, 1907,*** **Page Four**

*In an article called "Noctezuma [sic], 300 Years Old, Lively":*

What is known as the Ballotal district is located twenty-five miles east of Moctezuma and here considerable work is being done. The Aguila de Guerra property is under bond to Francisco Gallego, the prominent merchant. Twenty men have been at work and from \$8,000 to \$10,000 has been spent in development work recently. The ore value is found in silver and lead.

The Shamrock mine in this district is owned by S. J. Eubanks and P. J. O'Riley. A tunnel has been started on the property and indications are very favorable for developing good values.

The Ballotal group, from which the district takes its name, comprises a number of claims, showing large veins of oxidized silver ore. Considerable work has been done on this property and some of the high grade ore has been shipped, bringing returns of 326 ounces of silver and some gold value. This property is owned by O. L. Neer, C. C. Soto and F. B. Hyder.

***Bisbee daily review, December 31,  
1907, Page Seven***

*“Comes From Coast”*

O. L. Neer passed through the city yesterday en route to Douglas from the coast. Mr. Neer is interested heavily in mining in Mexico in the Moctezuma district.

***Bisbee daily review, January 08, 1908,  
Page 3***

*In the “Douglas Personals” section:*

O. L. Neer of Douglas came up Sunday from a trip down in Mexico.

***Bisbee daily review, March 22, 1908,  
Sunday Edition, Page Three***

*In the “Douglas News Notes” section:*

O. L. Neer, the well known mining-man of Douglas, arrived home from a western trip yesterday.

***Tombstone epitaph, March 29, 1908,  
Sunday Edition***

*In the section “Records of Cochise County,” with the subheading “Instruments Filed With the County Recorder”:*

Partial Release of Mortgage George Kingdon<sup>9</sup> to O L Neer

Probate Court... O L Neer et ux to W J Mooney and L E Boater, land 10

## ***Bisbee daily review, April 08, 1908,*** **Page Three**

*In the “Douglas Personals” section:*

C. E. Norton yesterday disposed of his interest in the mining property at Hachita owned by Messrs. Martin Nihart and others to O. L. Neer for some city property and money consideration.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> “GEORGE KINGDON, who has recently severed his connections in Globe to accept a position as general superintendent of the Cananea Consolidated Copper Company, at Cananea, Sonora, has been associated with mining development in Arizona for many years. From 1907 until his recent resignation he has been superintendent of the United Globe Mines, assistant superintendent of the Old Dominion Mining & Smelting Company, and superintendent of the Old Dominion Mine.” *Who’s Who in Arizona* 1 (1913) Tucson, accessed online at <http://www.onlinebiographies.info/az/kingdon-g.htm> on September 9, 2016.

<sup>10</sup> Hachita is a small town in southwestern New Mexico. This item is presumably concerning what is now Old Hachita, where mines were in operation until the 1920s. A search for Martin Nihart in papers of the period consistently finds only references to Mssrs. Martin and Nihart. For this reason, I think reference to Martin Nihart here is an error for these two men, and that Nihart is W. F. Nihart, for whom see the next note below.

***Bisbee daily review, April 26, 1908,***  
**Sunday Edition, Page Two**

*In the "Douglas Personals" section:*

Messrs. Nihart, Fletcher and O. L. Neer will leave this morning for their gold mine in Hachita. They expect to get out their first car of ore in a few days, as they now have nearly the amount.

***Bisbee daily review, May 09, 1908,***  
**Page Five**

The articles of incorporation of the Gold Hill Mining and Milling company were filed in the office of the county recorder today. The incorporators are O. L. Neer, J. O. Martin, Marsh Fletcher and W. F. Nihart [sic]. The company proposes to carry on a general mining business and names Douglas as the principal place of business. The capitalization of the company is placed at \$250,000, divided into 50,000 shares at a par value of \$5.00 each.

***Bisbee daily review, May 10, 1908,***  
**Sunday Edition, Page Two**

*In the "Douglas News Notes" section:*

Claude Neer, son of O. L. Neer, has returned from the Colorado School of Mines, where he will spend his vacation.



## ***Bisbee daily review, May 14, 1908,*** **Page Three**

*In the "Douglas News Notes" section:*

Marshall P. Wright of St. Louis, who has been in Douglas for some time on mining business, returned yesterday from El Paso, where he went with O. L. Neer, who was on his way to Central America.

## ***Tombstone epitaph, May 17, 1908,*** **Sunday Edition**

The articles of incorporation of the Gold Hill Mining & Milling company were filed in the office of the county recorder today. The incorporators are O. L. Neer, J. O. Martin, Marsh Fletcher and W. F. Nihart. The company proposes [sic] to carry on a general mining business and names Douglas as the principal place of business. The capitalization of the company is placed at \$250,000, divided into 50,000 shares at a par value of \$5 each.

## ***Arizona Daily Star, June 11, 1908***

*A Google search for "martin nihart" turns up Nihart and Neer in a scan of this paper, available through the subscription service newspapers.com but not, apparently, through chroniclingamerica.loc.gov. That article is not transcribed here.*

## ***Bisbee daily review, June 23, 1908,*** **Page Three**

*In the "Douglas Personals" section:*

O. L. Neer is now at Colon on the Isthmus of Panama in the interest of a mining company which he has formed.

## ***Bisbee daily review, August 26, 1908,*** **Page Three**

TOMBSTONE. Aug. 25.

J. P. Kelly of Douglas has brought suit against O. L. Neer and W. F. Nihart<sup>11</sup> for debt in the sum of \$500 alleged to be due on a promissory note given on May 8th for 90 days which it is alleged has not been paid nor has the interest in the sum of \$15. He asks for judgment in the above amount as well as for costs of suit.

## ***Bisbee daily review, September 01,*** **1908, Page Six**

Poberico.

Owned by Finch and Overlook, and now under bond and lease by O. L. Neer of Douglas, who is now on the Isthmus of Panama. A shipment was made two months ago of ore carrying \$200. It is a galena ore, carrying high silver values.

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<sup>11</sup> O. L. Neer's father Eden Neer had ties to an Ohio family of Neiharts going back to the 1850s. Is W. F. Nihart perhaps a member of that family?

## **Passenger Manifest, S. S. Cartago, New Orleans, 1908**

*The passenger manifest of the Cartago arriving in New Orleans, Louisiana from Colon, Panama reports an "Oliver L. Neer" in "mining" and his "wife" Carolyn Neer as "Left at quarantine". This Oliver's age is given as 50 years and 3 months in September 1908. I am unable to identify Carolyn Neer, whose age is given as 31 years and 8 months. The Panama Canal Record volume 1 records that the Cartago left New Orleans for Colon on August 22, left Colon for New Orleans on September 1, left New Orleans for Colon on September 12, and Colon for New Orleans on September 22. The date in the passenger manifest is unclear, with one date written on top of another; one date seems to be September 23, the other September 22 or 27. We do not know why he was traveling on the Cartago, but it is possible that he was visiting his son Paul, who was living in Honduras from 1908 to 1910.*

## ***The Mining and Engineering World* October 31, 1908 (29): 671.**

*In the "Claim Owners" section following the article "The New Gold Camp of Sylvanite, New Mexico."*

I. E. Predmore, Claude Neer and associates – Gold Hill...

Claude Neer – Oversight and Nederland.

## ***Bisbee daily review, November 04, 1908, Page Three***

*In the "Douglas Personals" section:*

Mrs. O. L. Neer went to Kansas City Saturday to be gone ten days.

## ***The Coloradoan 1908***

*Page 267 lists Claude Neer as one of the "Fratres in Universitate" of the Gamma Kappa chapter of Sigma Nu. Pictures of the house and the chapter accompany, including a picture of Claude.*

## ***Bisbee daily review, May 11, 1909, Page 6***

*In the "General Mining Notes" section:*

O. L. Neer of Douglas and Nacozari is examining the Veta Grande mine of N. S. Finch located below Bacoachi.<sup>12</sup>

Small shipments of high grade ore have been coming from this property for some months past...

The Pavo Rico mine formerly owned by N. S. Finch and under option to O. L. Neer and Geo. B. Hosier is being worked by a small force of men and the first shipment is ready for market.

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<sup>12</sup> N. S. Finch was also known as Jim Finch (*Bisbee Daily Review* August 5, 1905, page 2). His involvement with the Veta Grande goes back to at least 1905.

***Bisbee daily review, May 22, 1909,***  
**Page Six**

*In the "Mining News from Nacozari" section:*

Pavo Rico -- The Pavo Rico mine formerly owned by N. S. Finch, and under option to O. L. Neer and George B. Hosier, is being worked by a small force of men and the first shipment is ready for market.

***Bisbee daily review, June 09, 1909,***  
**Page Three**

*In the "Douglas News Notes" section:*

O. L. Neer left for Kansas City last night.

***Bisbee daily review, June 09, 1909,***  
**Page Six**

**PAVO RICO YIELDS HIGH GRADE ORE**

O. L. Neer brought to the city last Saturday several pieces of ore taken from the Pavo Rico mine, Seven miles northwest of Nacoazri [sic] which is equal in richness to any ore ever exhibited in this city being almost solid silver and lead. This ore was encountered during the past week at a depth of Seventy feet from the surface in a winze which is being sunk in one of the old tunnels run by the Atlas Mining company several years ago. Two pieces of this ore was brought to Douglas and they are now on exhibition at the office of C. A. Overlock who, with Jim Finch, owns the property which is now under bond to Mr. Neer.

Carload Ready For Smelter

On Saturday the work of packing a carload of ore from the

Pavo Rico mine to the railroad for shipment was started and it is expected to reach this city during the next few days.

The very high grade ore will be shipped from here to the smelter in El Paso while the second class ore will go to the Copper Queen smelter here. The rich ore from which the specimens now on exhibition were taken will run from 1000 to 2000 ounces in silver and it carries Seventy per cent lead. This ore streak is said to be from eighteen inches to two feet wide while the vein is from six to eight feet wide The second class ore is expected to run over \$300 per ton. Five cubic feet of the rich ore will weigh one ton.

#### Neer Is Confident

Mr. Neer, who is regarded as one of the best mining men in this section, is highly elated over the recent disclosures in the aPvo Rico [sic] mine. He has held the bond on the property only during the last three months. He has long considered the property favorably and when he succeeded in tying it up he lost no time in beginning the development work which he was confident would prove its richness. For the purpose of developing the property Mr Neer organized the Consolidated Mines company and disposed of a small block of the stock to parties in Kansas City to secure a little money required to start the work. The bond has yet ninety days and it is now expected that the rich ore encountered will be sufficient to insure the closing of the purchase deal.

The Pavo Rico is well located and is only two miles from the Nacozari railroad. A practically level valley leads from the railroad to within a distance of one half mile from the mine and a wagon road can easily be provided to the property without heavy cost.

Neer is entitled to congratulation because of the results

which he has already shown on the Pavo Rico, as they point strongly toward the development of a property of great wealth. He has been mining in Sonora in for a number of years and there is not an American in that country better acquainted with the mining opportunities than he or one who has more confidence in its future.

He intends to increase his working force on the Pavo Rico and while taking out and shipping the rich ore as he comes to it, still systematic lines will be followed with a view of putting the property in shape for the future.

### ***Mining and Scientific Press 98 (June 12, 1909), 811***

The Porica property, owned by Jim Finch and C. A. Overlock, is now under bond to O. L. Neer.

### ***Bisbee daily review, June 24, 1909, Page Three***

*In the "Douglas Personals" section:*

O. L. Neer is back from a business trip to Kansas City.

### ***Bisbee daily review, June 29, 1909, Page Three***

*In the "Douglas Personals" section:*

Mrs. O. L. Neer returned yesterday from a visit at Courtland with her son.

## ***Bisbee daily review, July 01, 1909,*** **Page Six**

*In an article titled "Nacozari Mines Improving":*

A well known mining man from Sonora was in the city yesterday and reported that in the Nacozari district mining matters were picking up both as to copper and silver propositions but especially as to the latter. The visitor confirms the reports of good ore at the Pavo Rica the property which has been leased by O. L. Neer from C. A. Overlock and Jim Finch. On this property they are now in an 18 inch vein of high grade ore which is running close to 40 per cent lead and from 100 to 150 ounces of silver.

*The article continues with content unrelated to Neer. However, the possibility exists that for this additional material, Neer himself is the informant.*

## ***Bisbee daily review, July 25, 1909,*** **Page Six**

*In the "Mining News from the Smelter City" section:*

O. L. Neer, who recently took charge of the Pavo Rico, is in Douglas on business.

## ***Bisbee daily review, August 03, 1909,*** **Page Three**

*In the "Personal Mention" section:*

O. L. Neer was up from the Pavo Rico yesterday on business connected with that interesting property.



***Tombstone epitaph, August 15, 1909,  
Sunday Edition***

*In the "Records of Cochise County" section:*

George Kingdon to O L Neer et ux; lots in Douglas and land in sec 17.

***Bisbee daily review, September 01,  
1909, Page Three***

*In the "Personal Mention" section:*

O. L. Neer passed through the city on the way to Cananea yesterday. He is now operating a property in the Nacozari district.

***Bisbee daily review, September 04,  
1909, Page Two***

*In the "Douglas Personals" section:*

O. L. Neer will leave tonight for a business trip to Kansas City.

***Bisbee daily review, December 16,  
1909, Page Three***

Mrs. Claude Neer and baby are in the city from Courtland to spend the holidays with Mrs. O. L. Neer.

# **The 1910s**

## **U.S. Federal Census, 1910**

*Oliver Lee Neer appears in the 1910 federal census in Douglas, Arizona, where he is listed as a promoter and engineer, and his mother's birth-place is given as Pennsylvania.*

## ***Mining World Index 33 (1910): 338***

Fred. Crosby, for the Bell-Hull Brokerage Co. of Kansas City, Mo., recently made an examination of the Veta Grande and the Sierro Gordo, two mines recently purchased by the United Mexican Mines Co.. of which the brokerage company is the fiscal agent. The Veta Grande was purchased from Jim Finch and the Sierro Gordo from O. L. Neer, both of Douglas. Veta Grande is located near Bocoachi, and the Sierro Gordo near Cumpas. At the Veta Grande a 100-ton cyaniding plant is to be put up at once. Mr. Crosby stated the machinery would be ordered immediately on his arrival at Kansas City.

## ***Bisbee daily review, January 07, 1910,*** **Page Two**

*In the "Douglas News" section:*

O. L. Neer is in Kansas City on a business trip.

***Mining World* February 26, 1910,  
Page 489**

The Bell-Hull Brokerage Co. of Kansas City, owner of the Cerro Gordo mine, states that the report that developments are not being pushed on that property is an error, and that day and night shifts are being worked. This company further states that it has ample funds to continue this work and expects to do so.

***Mining Science* “Current Digest of  
Mining Miscellany” March 3, 1910,  
Page 206**

O. L. Neer of Kansas City has been inspecting mines in Sonora, Mexico.

***Bisbee daily review*, March 26, 1910,  
Page Two**

*In the “Douglas News Notes” section:*

Mrs. O. L. Neer returned from Cumpas this morning. She was accompanied by her husband, who has been ill.

***Bisbee daily review*, April 03, 1910,  
Second Section, Page Eleven**

SIERRA GORDO

(Douglas International)

O. L. Neer, who has been kept away from his mining enterprises for Five weeks because of illness was able to be on the streets today and hopes to be able to return to the mining camps where he is operating next week. During the

last few days he has received encouraging reports from the Sierra Gordo thirty miles southwest of Cumpas where a force of twenty men are at work. This property is described as one of the most interesting of all the antiguas in Sonora. The old workings show one stope 400 feet long, 180 feet deep and 10 to 12 feet wide. On this property a tunnel 1200 feet long has been run and now a compressor is to be installed for the purpose of upraising at the end of the tunnel. Six inches of ore has been encountered which runs from 500 to 3500 ounces in silver and the pay streak is said to be widening.

Mr. Neer is also directing development work on the Vita Grande property, formerly owned by Jim Finch, located south of Bocoachi. This property is making a good showing according to reports coming to Douglas.

Speaking of the Cumpas country Mr. Neer says that should the Southern Pacific complete their proposed line south of Nacozari to Cumpas it would result in greatly increased activity in the mineral industry of that section of Sonora.

The Transvaal smelter would certainly be again put into commission, as the development work on the Transvaal mines during the past year has resulted in the blocking out of some splendid ore bodies which are now ready to yield heavy

tonnage. Besides the Transvaal mines there are other important properties which would resume production with the advantage of railroad transportation at Cumpas.

## ***Bisbee daily review, April 08, 1910,*** **Page Three**

*In the "Douglas News and Personals" section:*

O. L. Neer, of Ninth street, has recovered from his recent illness and left today for his mining property in Mexico.

## ***El Paso herald, April 09, 1910***

### **RICH SILVER ORE IN ANTIGUA OF SONORA**

The Sierra Gordo mine, 30 miles southwest of Cumpas, Sonora, is said to be one of the most interesting of all the antiquas in that state. The old workings show one stope 400 feet long, 180 feet deep and 10 to 12 feet wide. On this property a tunnel 1200 feet long has been run and now a compressor is to be installed for the purpose of upraising at the end of the tunnel.

Six inches of ore has been encountered running from 500 to 3500 ounces silver. Twenty men are at work in the mine, under the management of O. L. Neer.

## ***Mining Investor 59 (May 23, 1910)***

The Bell-Hull Brokerage company of Kansas City reports the receipt of the following telegram from the manager of the property: Douglas, Ariz., Sept. 12, 1910. Have struck apparently big body of thirty-eight ounce ore after crossing fault in Veta Grand incline. Have not broken through, cannot tell thickness. It looks splendid. Vein about six feet in width Cerro Gordo improving rapidly in appearance. Wrote you today. Am much elated. O. L. NEER. Since receiving the above telegram the company has had a further communication in which he confirms this wire in every

respect and further says: 'The ore body looks good and solid and strong and better grade than any we have encountered since we began our incline on the surface and I think more of the Veta Grande today than ever and have good reason for thinking so.' It is stated that work has been pushed without a single intermission on both properties night and day since the organization of the company. It has accomplished over 800 feet of drifting, sinking and up-raising on the Cerro Gordo mine alone and something like 200 feet of work on the Veta Grande. which has nearly all been sinking and necessarily much slower than drifting and upraising.

## ***Bisbee daily review, August 30, 1910,*** **Page Six**

Sierra Gorda Near Cumpas Now Employs Thirty Men

Douglas, Aug. 29 (Special)

O. L. Neer left today for Mexico for the purpose of visiting the Sierra Gordo mine and the Veta Grande property, where work is going on under his supervision. The Sierra Gordo is located thirty-five miles west of Cumpas and the Vita Grande is located in the Bocoachi country.

At the former thirty men are at work, taking out high grade silver ore. A recent shipment of this ore amounting to eighteen tons gave a return of near 700 ounces of silver to the ton. Another shipment of ore is now ready and will be started from the mine on the arrival of Mr. Neer. This ore is packed by burros to Cumpas and brought from Cumpas to Nacozari in wagons.

At the Veta Grande Mr. Neer is working eighteen to twenty men. No shipments are being made from this property, but it is expected that shipments can be started in the near future.

Mr. Neer says that the Transvaal Copper company is working nearly one hundred men on its properties west of Cumpas. Recently on the Verde claim, owned by that company a diamond drill cut through two hundred feet of ore of good value. Now the company is pumping out the shafts on this property preparatory to developing this immense body of ore and arranging for its extraction. Mr. Neer is enthusiastic over the mining industry of Sonora now just as he has been since he first went into that country ten years ago and declares that it is destined to develop into the greatest and richest mineral country in the world.

### ***Bisbee daily review, September 30, 1910, Page Three***

APATHY IS FATAL

DOUGLAS, Sept 29. (Special)

While no definite word has been received from Los Angeles as to the chances of this city obtaining the 1911 session of the American Mining congress the indications of obtaining this much to be desired event cannot be said to be bright, owing to an apathy on the subject which has been shown by the Douglas citizens themselves. There is no delegation of size at the congress to work In the Interest of the city, as it is necessary to work to obtain a congress or convention. This is shown by a telegram received at the chamber of mines office yesterday from O. L. Neer. He anxiously inquires where the rest of the delegates are and

say lie cannot be expected to get the congress here single handed. It would appear that he is there alone in the interests of Douglas, unavoidable circumstances having prevented other delegate from this city from attending.

At the present session of the mining congress Douglas is in a peculiar position. She has no boosting delegation there, although an aspirant for the next congress. She is dependent upon the other cities of Arizona. In advance of the congress merchants and mining men of this city were urged to attend at Los Angeles in the interests of Douglas. This was not done, and if the congress, as is to be feared, goes elsewhere, the blame must rest on the people themselves who did not care enough for the project to go out after it.

## ***Bisbee daily review, October 06, 1910,*** **Page Three**

NE7ER [sic] RETURNS

DOUGLAS, Oct 5. (Special)

O. L. Neer, the only representative of Douglas who attended all the sessions of the mining congress in Los Angeles last week, reached home yesterday evening. Mr. Neer attended the congress as a delegate appointed by the Douglas Chamber of Commerce and Mines and did all in his power to induce the coming of the congress to Douglas next year, and feels confident that his work in that direction was not in vain.

Mr. Neer stated that the members of the congress were royally entertained by the citizens of Los Angeles, headed by the Sierra Madre club, and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. He met many old time friends while in Los



Angeles, whom he had not seen for years, and enjoyed the trip very much.

### ***Bisbee daily review, October 28, 1910, Page 3***

Hallow E'en Social.

A Halliw E'en social will be given by the Epworth league of the Methodist church, October 31, 1910.

The following invitation is extended to the public:

"Come spend with wi' a happy nicht  
And crack a joke the gither."

At the home of Mrs. O L. Neer,  
Ninth street, Monday evening.

Remember it is "Witch's" night and dinna by fleyd gin ye  
should see weird figures about the ingle, 'an see strange  
faces looking in at ye from a nook in the wa'.

### ***Bisbee daily review, October 30, 1910, Second Section, Page 12***

From all the plans that are being made for the celebration of Hallowe'en night on the eve of November 1 first, it looks as though Douglas will transform itself into elfland and the inhabitants into elves. At the home of Mrs. J. A. Dowdie on Thirteenth street, the ladies of the Christian church will hold a Revel of Ghosts, to which all ghosts are invited. The Epworth league of the Christian church will make the night realistic with black cats, ghosts, etc., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Neer on Ninth street, and in the language of Bobble Burns:

Some kindle, couthie, side by side,  
And bum togither trimly;

Somt start awa' wi saucy pride  
And jump out owre the chimlie  
Fri, high that night.”

All are invited to come to try their fate.  
At the Gadsden hotel the ladies of St. Cecelia's guild of the  
Episcopal church will give a Hallowe'en dance.  
Many spirits will arrive in pumpkin carriages and they will  
hold a carnival of innocent sport.

## ***Bisbee daily review, December 01, 1910, Page Six***

Mining Veteran

(Douglas International )

Maj. W. J. Collins, a mining man of vast experience in many countries of the world, is in the city, returning from Mexico, where he had been with O. L. Neer for ten days, visiting the Bacoachi and Cumpas sections, where he made an examination of the Veta Grande and Slcira Gordo properties, both of which are now being operated by Mr. Neer.

## ***El Paso herald, December 06, 1910, Page 9***

*In the middle of an article on miscellaneous mining developments titled "Improvements on Greene-Cananea Extensive and Are Being Pushed."*

O. L. Neer has been down to the Cerro Gordo and Veta Grande properties which he owns, located near Bacoachi. The tunnel on the Cerro Gordo has reached a distance of

1400 feet and the one on the Veta Grande has been driven in 800 feet.

***Bisbee daily review, December 25, 1910, Page Three***

**Family Reunion**

Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Neer of Ninth street are entertaining a happy house party during the holidays. Mr. O. L. Neer returned to his home last evening from his business interests in Sonora, his son, Mr. Claude Neer will arrive tomorrow from the same place, Mrs. Paul Neer and little daughter are here from the East and when [sic] joined yesterday by her husband, Mr. Paul Neer, son of the host and hostess, who has recently returned from Honduras, where he is engaged in mining; Mr. Lee Neer, who is another son of the Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Neer, accompanied by his wife and daughter are also among the guests.

***The Topeka state journal, January 06, 1911, Last Edition***

*In an article titled "Rebels in Sonora":*

A telegram from Cananea this morning says the rebels near Nacozari yesterday took Seven horses, four saddles, three rifles and two revolvers from Marion L. Williams, residing near Nacozari, Sonora and left receipts but no cash. O. L. Neer, another American in the same region, was visited and a number of things taken, including powder, but he was paid in cash.

## ***Evening star, January 06, 1911, Page 2***

*In an article titled "Insurgents in Mexico Defy President Diaz":*

A telegram from Cananea this morning says the rebels near Nacozari yesterday took Seven horses, four saddles, three rifles and two revolvers from Marion L. Williams, residing near Nacoazari [sic], Sonora, and left receipts, but no cash. O. L. Neer, another American in the same region, was visited and the same number of things taken, including powder, but he was paid in cash.

## ***The oasis, January 14, 1911***

*In an article titled "Sedition in Sedona":*

From the Moctezuma district there come reports of the operation of one or two small predatory bands. They took from Marion Williams an American in the cattle business over in that region, some arms, ammunition, horses, saddles and provisions. They gave receipts, upon presentation of which to the Madero government, when it is established, reimbursement will be made. From O. L. Neer, an American engaged in mining, another small band took arms, ammunition and provisions. They paid cash.

## ***Bisbee daily review, January 22, 1911, Second Section***

DOUGLAS SOCIETY

(Douglas International.)

An enjoyable social afternoon was spent by the ladies of

the Methodist Episcopal church and their friends Thursday from three to six at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Wright, 840 Eleventh St. The time passed very quickly, as well as delightfully in social intercourse. Coffee and sandwiches were served in the dining room from a table attractively decorated with cut flowers, consisting of sweet peas inter-mingled with smilax.

The ladies who assisted in serving were Mrs. Robert E. Bryce, Mrs. E. H. Beebe, Mrs. Butler. Mrs. Beals, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. R. L. Gibson, Mrs. W. R. Gabriel, Mrs. C. R. Dicus and Mrs. M. F. Dicus. Among those who called were Mesdames Butler, Young, W. C. Greene, O. L. Neer, Paul Neer, James East A. Y. Wright, L. C. Peschke, W. N. Mayo, O. O. Ross, Valentine, Pratt, Nat Grant, I J. Tankersley, Wm. Hanover, J. H. Combs, Grace, Glenn, Nash, M. E. Howe, T. P. Nichols, Gray, CM. Seaman, E. H. Beebe, C. M. Iverson, John Peterson, Bryce, S. C. Long, Leggett, Marks, Nichols, W. C. Jack, A. ,G. Curry, D. T. Dunlap, R. L. Gibson, Beals, Kelly Henry, Samuel Warr, J. P. Nash, of El Paso, Harriet Owens, of Pennsylvania.

## ***Bisbee daily review, May 02, 1911,*** **Page Three**

*In the "Douglas Society" section:*

The afternoon of the 17th of April was the regular time for the meeting of the Woman's club, but on account of the excitement incident to the recent battles so close to our border, the meeting was postponed, and last Monday the club met in the Gadsden parlors and rendered the program which was to have been given the previous meeting...

Other business was transacted, and the following committee, with Mrs. N. K. Wood as chairman, was appointed to arrange a program for the new year: Mrs. J. L. Krentz, Mrs. T. U. McGarty, Mrs. Fletcher M. Doan, Mrs. O. L. Neer.

### ***El Paso herald, July 01, 1911, Page 6***

*At the end of an article on "Strike at Lady Calhoun":*

O. L. Neer states that he will soon resume work at his mines near Cumpas and Bacoachi.

### ***El Paso herald, August 01, 1911, Page 8***

The United Mexican Mines company, which is operating in northern Sonora, properties being located at Bacoachi and Cumpas, will soon install a smelter of the reverberatory type at its Cerro Gordo mine, near Cumpas. The foundation for the equipment has been begun, and it is expected that the plant will be completed within 60 days. The furnace will probably be of the wood burning pattern. Considerable ore has already been blocked out under the supervision of O. L. Neer, superintendent of the company's holdings. The company is controlled by Kansas City capitalists.

### ***El Paso herald, August 25, 1911, Page 7***

*Under a subheading reading "Scarcity of Mining Teamsters":*

Douglas, Ariz., Aug. 25 -- "It has been exceedingly difficult to secure freighters to haul our ore," said. O. L.

Neer after returning from Sonora. Freighters are absolutely necessary to us, as our property is located 88 miles from the nearest railroad; still I do not find that the lack of teamsters is a bad sign as teams are in poor condition because they have been used for plowing. Food is important to the people and the return to farming shows that Sonora is being rapidly pacified. The wait is bad for the miners for the present, but it looks good for the future."

The vicinity of Cumpas has been visited by a series of terrific storms, Mr. Neer states.

## ***El Paso herald*, October 01, 1911, Comic Pages and Features**

### **SONORA MINE HAS RESUMED SHIPMENTS**

A shipment of ore, the first for several months, from the Cerro Gordo mine of the United Mexican company of Sonora, will in a few days be on its way to the El Paso smelter, according to O. L. Neer, general manager of the company.

It is the expectation of Mr. Neer that shipments from his property will be frequent and continuous. He says that the farmers of northern Sonora have made the last of their crops and are now looking for work with the mines, in which they can utilize their animals. Mr. Neer's property is about 80 miles from Nacozari, the nearest railroad point, the ore having to be freighted by burros over the hills.

***El Paso herald, October 11, 1911,***  
**Page 12**

*In an article titled "Cananea Output Shows Big Gain":*

O. L. Neer, in charge of the Cerro Gordo property near Cumpas, reports that conditions at the mine are excellent. Another shipment is being prepared and taken to Nacozari, where it will be shipped by rail to the smelter.

***El Paso herald, November 08, 1911,***  
**Page 12**

The new smelter of the Cerro Gordo company, located near Cumpas, Magdalena district, is now operating successfully. Twelve men are now being worked at the mine under the superintendency of O. L. Neer. It is stated that the ore averages \$318 per ton.

***El Paso herald, December 23, 1911,***  
**Mining and Society News Section**

*In an article titled "Activity in the Cumpas Vicinity," immediately after a report on Transvaal's use of diamond drills:*

The Cerro Gordo mine, O. L. Neer, superintendent, continues to make its high grade ore shipments.



***El Paso herald*, February 03, 1912,  
Week-End Edition, Comic Section**

*In an article titled "Excitement in Cumpas Region":*

Lee Neer was in from the Cerro Gordo for a few days but has now returned. O. L. Neer, superintendent, made a rush trip to Douglas this week on business connected with the Cerro Gordo.

***Bisbee daily review*, February 04,  
1912, Section One, Page Three**

**DEALS ARE REPORTED**

Five Sonora Properties Sold and Rich Discovery Made  
Despite [sic] the fact of reports of disturbed conditions in Chihuahua, as yet there appears to have been no effect felt from them in Sonora, at least Judging from reports received from Douglas last night, which tell of two important mining deals that have just been closed for properties in the Nacozari or Moctezuma district. In one instance the consideration is reported to have been \$75,000 gold, and in the other \$30,000, so that it may be seen that confidence in the district of northern Sonora has been restored, or at least is rapidly being restored.

It is reported that O. L. Neer, well known in mining circles of Sonora and southern Arizona, has just completed a sale of the Llota property in the Nacozari district to James Fryer, and in this instance the consideration is said to have been \$30,000.

It is also reported from Douglas that John Hohstadt, the well known cattle and mining man, has perfected a sale to Frank Bortges of the San Nicolas property in the Nacozari

district, the consideration passing in this transaction being \$75,000.<sup>13</sup>

From the same source comes the information that Jim Taylor discoverer of the well known and justly famous El Tigre, has made a rich discovery and denounced the property in Sonora. He is said to have found a large and very rich ledge in Pitocochi mountain, after having spent several months in the hills, and to have thereupon made his denouncement before coming back to Douglas.

## ***El Paso herald, February 07, 1912, Society and Mining News, Page 17***

*In the "Mining News" section:*

### **NEER PURCHASES BELLOTA PROPERTY**

San Nicolas Mine, Near Nacarozi, Is Sold For \$75,000.  
Douglas, Ariz., Feb. 7.

O. L. Neer has closed a deal which has been pending for some time for the purchase of the Bellota, an extension of the well known Vaquero property, located in the vicinity of Nacozari. Immediately after closing the deal, Mr. Neer leased the property to J. V. Fryer, who is also operating the Vaquero. Mr. Fryer has begun work upon it, preparatory to commencing regular shipments. The Bellota has had considerable work done on it showing well defined bodies of a high grade of gold-silver ore, similar in character to that on the Vaquero and highly silicious, giving it a

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<sup>13</sup> The papers of the Hohstadt family are available online as part of the Arizona-Sonora Documents Online collection. A later report gives the buyer's name as Borgesen, not Bortges.

premium standing at the smelters. The property formerly belonged to the Lowendow interests of San Francisco.

***El Paso herald, February 14, 1912,  
Society and Mining News Section,  
Page 19***

*In the "Mining News Section:*

**Sells Half Interest**

O. L. Neer has sold a half interest in the Bellota property to James Fryer. The property adjoins the Vaquero mine, which is being worked on a lease by Mr. Fryer. It is reported that over \$30,000 worth of ore has been shipped from the Vaquero. Work on the Bellota will begin at once.

***The oasis, February 17, 1912***

*The Oasis (Arizola, Arizona) under the "Sonora Mining Notes" section:*

Reports from Cumpas are to the effect that the Transvaal company is continuing to do a great amount of diamond drill work.

O. L. Neer has sold to James Fryer of Nacozari a half interest in the Bellota property, which adjoins the Vaquero mine, which is now being worked by Mr. Fryer on a lease. Over \$30,000 worth of ore has been shipped from the Vaquero. Work on the Bellota will begin at once.

John Hohstadt this week sold to Frank Borgesen the San Nicolas mine, located about Five miles east of Nacozari, for \$75,000. The property is said to be a high grade gold-

silver proposition and Burgesen will begin working the property at once, making shipments to the El Paso smelter.

***El Paso herald*, April 10, 1912,  
Society and Sporting News Section**

*In an article about Transvaal titled "Diamond Drill Work at Campas":*

Cerro Gordo is making a small shipment of ore. Frank Wood is in charge of the work while O. L. Neer is in Kansas City.

***El Paso herald*, May 29, 1912, Sport  
and Society Section, Page 17**

*In the "Mining News" section:*

West Cananea Bonded.

The West Cananea mine, located six miles due west from the smelter of the Greene-Cananea company, has been bonded by its owners, the Cananea Copper company and Col. Juan Cabral<sup>14</sup>, to O L. Neer and Apollos Fuller of this city. Mr Neer who returned from the big acmp [sic] brought news of the deal but refused to state the amount involved in the transaction.

The West Cananea is one of the best known properties of the Cananea district, aside from the "company" holdings.

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<sup>14</sup> Col. Juan Cabral files a copyright claim in May 1911: *Catalog of Copyright Entries Part 4* (1911) volume 6(1). He had participated as an employee in the Cananea strike in 1906; joined Madero's forces in May 1911; and became commander of the revolutionary forces in Sonora in 1911 (Roderic A. Camp *Mexican Political Biographies 1884-1934* [1991] Austin).

Shipments will be commenced within a short time at the average rate of one car load a day. A force of men has been put at work clearing away the old dump, preparatory to getting at the property's ore bodies. As rapidly as they can be used other men will be put to work and a force of 40 or 50 men will ultimately be employed.

The West Cananea property was bonded to eastern parties just before the slump of 1906 for a half million dollars. Even after the slump, the owners were offered \$125,000 cash for the bond. This they refused without consideration. Shipments from the property will be divided between the Cananea smelter and the Copper Queen smelter in this city, Mr Neer states.

## ***El Paso herald*, June 17, 1912, Sport and Society Section**

*In an article titled "Chamber of Commerce Committees Are Named in Douglas":*

The following committees have been appointed to serve by their respective chairman for the Douglas Chamber of Commerce and Mines for the following year...

Mines and Mining -- S. M. Greenidge, chairman; James Suits, T. S. Lambertson, O. L. Neer.

## ***El Paso herald*, July 06, 1912, Week-End Edition, Feature and Society News Section, Page 28**

ABUNDANCIA SHIPS GOOD ORE TO SMELTER  
Cananea Mine Is Proving an Excellent Producer; a New

Road Planned.

Cananea. Son., Mex., July 6

The Abundancia property, which was taken on a bond and lease by O. L. Neer and associates six weeks ago, is proving a good property from every standpoint.

While the production at the present time is limited on account of the transportation problem, it is expected that as soon as the full output can be shipped to the smelter the mine will be self sustaining, the additional payments due to be paid out of the smelter returns, not necessitating the company advancing any more funds from the treasury. Five cars have already been, shipped to the Copper Queen smelter in Douglas, showing copper values running from 15 to 17 per cent. On account of the mine being located two miles from the wagon road, pack animals are now necessary, but a sufficient number cannot be secured to freight the ore. For this reason, a narrow gauge road is now planned by the company, which will solve this problem.

## ***Bisbee daily review, July 07, 1912,*** **Page Ten**

*In an article on "Cananea Mining News":*

The Cerro Gordo property, located about 40 miles south of Nacozari will probably resume operations in the near future after being idle for a few months. O. L. Neer, manager of the property was at Douglas recently to attend to matters in connection with the reopening of the mine.

***El Paso herald, July 18, 1912, Sport and Society Section, Page 14***

*In an article called "Cananea Active:"*

The West Cananea property, recently purchased by O. L. Neer and Appolas Fuller, of this city, is also working steadily. The property is making increasingly large shipments. Between 35 and 40 men are employed.

***El Paso herald, October 05, 1912, Week-End Edition, Real Estate and Too Late To Classify, Page 11***

Neer Quits Sonora.

After contributing largely to Sonora as a mining field and doing much to develop the state's mineral resources, O. L. Neer has determined to abandon mining operations there. For this reason he has spent the last 10 days looking over mining camps of Arizona, having several properties in view, any one of which he may decide to bond and develop.

"I am tired of Mexico. Without directly robbing me of a dollar, the Mexicans have broken up three mining camps for me and rendered my holdings useless. They have done this by frightening the men of the districts in which they were located or by forcing them to join the revolution. Labor, or rather the scarcity of it, is the sole cause of the closedown in each instance," said Mr. Neer.

## ***The copper era and Morenci leader,*** **November 08, 1912**

LEADVILLE MINE IS SOLD FOR \$600,000

The vast sum of \$600,000 the Leadville Mining company transferred all its holdings and property at Courtland to Apolis Fuller and O. L. Neer at 2 o'clock today at the office of the company at Pierce.<sup>15</sup>

This is the largest mining deal that has been closed in this vicinity for a number of years. The sale of the property was reported here about a week ago, but the deal was not closed until today. Fuller and Neer will work the property and ship the ore to the smelters here. They will greatly increase the force.

The property is regarded as one of the best and also the oldest in that district and much ore has been shipped in the past Five years. Recently the company made a strike of rich sulphide ore at a depth of between 100 and 125 feet. The bottom of the shaft being in the ore, the exploration work is being continued. Shipments are being made at the rate of two cars per day and these will be increased as soon as additional laborers can be secured.

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<sup>15</sup> This sale seems to have led to litigation involving Fuller and Greenridge, but not Neer: see *The Pacific Reporter* 149 page 384 on a decision by the Supreme Court of Arizona involving this sale. For the decision itself see *Report of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of the State of Arizona* volume 17 s.v. Leadville Min. Co. et al. v. Hemphill.



## ***The Mining and Engineering World*** **(1912)**

Dateline Courtland, Arizona:

The Leadville Mining Co. has turned the Leadville mines over to the new purchasers, Apollos Fuller, O. L. Neer and S. W. Greenridge. The consideration was \$600,000, with a cash payment of \$35,000. The new owners contemplate sinking the No. 1 shaft from the present level at 300 ft. to a depth of 400 ft. and run a connection to the No. 2 shaft... [Further technical reports follow.]

## ***Mohave County miner, April 12, 1913***

*From Mineral Park, Arizona. An excerpt from a longer article about Courtland and the Sulphur Spring valley:*

The Leadville mine is being worked steadily with a force of twenty-five men. Shafts Nos. 1 and 2 on this property are now both down to a depth of 360 feet and work has just been started on a drift which will connect the two at the bottom. O. L. Neer is in charge of this property and has recently installed a quantity of new machinery, consisting of new engine, hoists, compressors, etc. The Leadville mine is shipping no ore, but this is not because there is not plenty of it available when it is desired to resume shipping.

## ***Tombstone epitaph, November 16, 1913, Sunday Edition***

*In the "Doings in Superior Court" section:*

In the case of Geo. Hemphill vs A Fuller and O L Neer, involving the collection of commission on the sale of

certain mining property in the county, the jury after being out a few minutes returned a verdict allowing the plaintiff \$1300.

***Tombstone epitaph, November 30,  
1913, Sunday Edition***

*In the "Court Cases Filed" section:*

Judgment in suit--

265. Appollas Fuller and O L Neer, Drs. G E Hemphill, Or  
[?]; judgment for \$1300.

**The Kansas City, Missouri directory,  
1914**

*Under Additions, Alterations, Etc., page 136:*

Neer O L mngr United-Mexican Mines Co 1020 Scarritt  
Bldgr 1111 E 8th

**The Kansas City, Missouri directory,  
1914**

*Page 1499:*

Neer O L real est r 1111 E 8th

**The Kansas City, Missouri directory,  
1915**

Neer O L real est r 1111 E 8th

## ***Mines Handbook 1916***

The United Mexican Mines company in Sonora, Mexico is listed as "Idle at last reports" under the management of O. L. Neer. It describes the company as "Mines near La Verde via Campus, Sonora, Mexico," with property "40 miles S. of Nacozari, includes the Veta Grande and Cerro Gordo groups, near the Transvaal mine." A list of the mine's properties follows. The 1918, 1920 and 22 entry repeats this information. The *Mexican Mining Journal* (January 1909, page 14) lists a "United Mexican Mines" as one of the larger companies of 1895, with over 150,000 British pounds invested.

## ***Bisbee daily review, February 25, 1916, Page Five***

**MINING MAN DECLARES ROOSEVELT IS GAINING  
GROUND AS CANDIDATE**

O. L. Neer of Douglas Says Feeling in East and Middle West is Growing in Favor of Former President.

DOUGLAS, Feb. 24.

That Roosevelt is gaining as rapidly in favor throughout the east as President Wilson is declining and that the swing of the pendulum of popular opinion in support of the former is more than formidable, is the statement of O. L. Neer, well known mining man, who has recently returned from an extended stay in the east and middle west.

"No matter where you go, who you talk to, it is of Roosevelt, the man, you hear, and there is no doubt but that Roosevelt will dictate the policies of the next

administration, directly or indirectly," is the statement of Mr. Neer.

"President Wilson's swing through the middle west caused much caustic criticism from the members of his own party, for he verbally advocated ideas which his staunchest supporters knew he does not believe in. His speeches were models of their kind, but there was no sincerity of purpose behind them.

"The president has lost the confidence of the people throughout the east and Roosevelt has secured it by leaps and bounds, simply by continuing to put forth those policies which he has unhesitatingly and ardently advocated since his advent into public life some thirty-five years ago.

"There is a prevailing belief," said Mr. Neer, "that Wilson will not hesitate to order the American army into Mexico by September, if such a step is necessary to perpetuate himself as president. Of course, I do not know that this is the case, but it is the belief of those who have watched the president's program of insincerity, that he will not hesitate to use this means to secure his own re-election because he realizes the unwillingness of the American people to change horses while crossing a stream.

"I talked with hundreds of people during the last three months who have more or less followed politics, and while there are many who do not admire Roosevelt personally, he will nevertheless receive their vote at the next election if he or a man of his choice is the nominee.

"Roosevelt is recognized east of the Mississippi river as the one man fitted and prepared to assume the responsibility of leading the American people at this time," continued Mr. Neer, "and the loss of confidence in President Wilson by the people of the east is difficult to realize unless you can see and talk to them. The president's efforts since his tenure of office have smacked too much of the hypocritical and this sentiment is growing as rapidly as the star of Roosevelt is taking the ascendancy."

## **Denver Public Schools. School District Number One. Annual Report. 1917.**

*An excerpt via online snippet view from page 43:*

...mechanical drawing in a day class conducted by Evans J. Gurtner has helped some twenty men mechanics who are employed at night. We were specially fortunate after the enlistment of Paul Peak in securing the services of Claude Neer, chief draftsman of the Vulcan Iron Works. He and Mr. Gurtner enrolled in evening classes 160 students in related mechanical drawing and shop mathematics.

## **1918**

The reference in Superior Court of Cochise County, State of Arizona Case No. 1120 to a vacation by Lee Neer and Leona Jane Neer in the summer of 1918 in Venice, CA may suggest that Oliver and Ida were in California at this point as well.

# The 1920s

## U.S. Federal Census, 1920

*Oliver L. Neer appears in District 0142, Chicago Ward 3, Cook County, Illinois as a "Promoter" of a "Mining Co." He appears only with his wife, Ida. Their birth-places are listed as Ohio; those of his parents as Virginia and Pennsylvania; and those of her parents as Ohio.*

## ***Bisbee daily review, March 06, 1921, Page Eight***

Work Resumed At Cerro Gordo Mine

DOUGLAS. March 5.

O. L. Neer, the well known mining man and pioneer in that business in the state of Sonora, was in the city yesterday buying supplies for the Cerro Gordo mine in which he has been interested since 1908. He, with parties from Emporia, Kansas, have been at this property, which is some forty-Five miles west of Cumpas. for three weeks and while there started work on the property which has been idle since 1910. In 1909 Mr. Neer shipped considerable pay ore from the property and it is reported that Mexicans worked the minse [sic] during the revolution days in that country, taking out considerable good ore.

Two thousand feet of work has been done on the Cerro Gordo and eight men were put to work last week. This force will be greatly increased in the near future, said Mr. Neer.

***Bisbee daily review, March 19, 1922,***  
**Page Four**

Returns From Mines

O. L. Neer is in the city today from the Cero Gordo mining property on which he has been at work during the past ten months. He says that he recently made a shipment of ore which was secured in the progress of development work which went better than six hundred ounces in silver.

Accompanying Mr. Neer is William Hogarth and they are now interested in the Troy property, northeast of the El Tigre property where they regard the opportunity for making a valuable property most excellent. Several years ago this property yielded a quantity of teluride ore which was shipped from Douglas.

***Bisbee daily review, July 30, 1922,***  
**Page Eight**

Studebaker Sales

The Bisbee Auto Co., reports the following sales of Studebaker cars for the week ending July 29... O. L. Neer, Special Six Touring car.

# The 1930s

## **U.S. Federal Census, 1930**

*Oliver L. Neer appears in District 975, Glendale, Los Angeles, California as a “mining promoter” who “owns mines.” He appears with his wife, Mabel E. His birth-place and those of his parents are all listed as Ohio, which suggests that he himself was not the informant, as his father at least was not born in Ohio.*

## **California Death Index, 1930-1939, Surnames H-N**

*Oliver L. Neer’s death is recorded as March 2, 1935.*